MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
April 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Shanette Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill
ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of March 24, 2025 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Griffin Briley
7982 Ambrose Bend

Mr. Briley stated that he had attended Council to discuss the proposed DORA. As a server, he has seen intoxicated people many times. He stated that it can be a truly terrifying thing to witness. He explained that he understands that most people do drink safely, but he fears for the ones that do not. He stated that drunk people do not care about the zones they are permitted to be in, they don't care about laws, and they don't care about the sanctity of your home. He explained that an intoxicated person tried to break into his home and pounded on the door, peered through windows, and circled his home. He stated that while the proposed DORA is not next to his residence, it is within walking distance, and he fears for the safety of his family and his community. He explained that he is not fully against the idea of a DORA in Reynoldsburg, and he does agree that it could bring economic growth to the area. However, he does not believe it should be passed in its current state. He explained that he would prefer there be added

police in the area for the protection of the community, because safety should come before the economy.

Kurt Keljo
1306 N. Jackson Avenue

Mr. Keljo stated that he is a retired environmental engineer and watershed specialist. He explained that he is deeply committed to maintaining the well-being of our creeks and the creatures that live within them. He included a packet for Council showing the many types of creatures that live within the area. He invites and encourages Council to attend one of the events in Reynoldsburg taking place later in the year when children will be exploring the creeks. He also suggested that Council might request the Midwest Biodiversity Institute to come out to discuss the fish living in the creeks and do some sampling. Ohio state law bases stream health on these creatures, and he has provided some visual images to show how these creatures may change based on how healthy or unhealthy their living environment may be. State law requires that the City protect its creeks according to biological standards. Based on what he has learned since March, EMH&T is ill-equipped and not motivated to assist the City in doing this. Thankfully, the Mayor invited Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the Midwest Biodiversity Institute to help the City with this task. He stated that the Mayor may need Council's help in following through on this commitment given his undeserved trust in EMH&T. He added that the City's storm water department already does a fine job at doing its part to protect the City's streams. He explained that EMH&T really wants him to stop discussing this issue and their role in it; at their last meeting he was told by engineers to stop criticizing them and the Huber Park project. He stated that they shamed him into silence. Rather than explaining to him why his criticisms were wrong, they decided to silence him instead. The March 27th meeting did not end with them deciding that the Huber Park project was ethical. He also included his notes and comments on this meeting in the packet he gave to Council. He trusts that the Council will do what is best for the City and is grateful that the Mayor has invited capable professionals to assist the City with future projects.

Councilmember Baker

Councilmember Baker stated that a few meetings ago he inquired about a grant to assist with pay-to-play fees or after-school activities for students. He asked if there had been any further discussion on this proposed idea.

Attorney Shook stated that he would present some background on the question that Councilmember Baker asked at a previous Council meeting. He explained that they did reach out to the State Auditor's Office as well as the City's independent auditor, along with researching the State of Ohio auditor's opinions. He explained that the answers they received essentially created more questions than answers. There is no precedent

for this in the State of Ohio whereby a municipality has created a grant program for students in the local school district, although there were concerns raised in these conversations about whether that would be a legitimate public purpose for the municipality, because there is already a school district in the area which has their own revenue stream. So at this time, he can't say if they can or cannot do this, but he will say that if this is something they choose to pursue, the City will be entering a gray area.

Councilmember Baker reiterated that what he is hearing is that they would be entering into this grant at their own risk. He stated that he would rather try and fail than not try at all.

Work Session to Discuss Urban Chickens

Attorney Shook introduced Senai Alem and Nia McLaughlin, two young people who have shown exemplary behavior, performance, and scholastic ability both in school and at the City of Reynoldsburg, as legal interns in the City Attorney's Office. He explained that they are both seniors at Reynoldsburg High School, and they did not get to choose which side of argument they would present. He stated that when it comes to being a lawyer, many times you have to make arguments you may not personally believe in.

Senai Alem
Pro-Chicken Presentation

Improved food security
- A source of reliable and sustainable protein; chicken meat (both muscle and organ meat) and eggs constitute a high-quality food source, densely packed with essential macro- and micronutrients.
- Animal-sourced foods are particularly concentrated in highly bioavailable iron, vitamin A, vitamin B12, zinc, and riboflavin.

Low cost protein
- For individuals and families in lower-income communities, raising chickens can be an affordable way to access high-quality protein. The initial investment in maintaining chickens can pay off over time through a regular
supply of eggs and meat.
- A study published in *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* has suggested that localized food systems, bolstered by practices like raising backyard chickens, enhance community
resilience by promoting self-sufficiency and reducing reliance on industrial food systems.

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Natural pest control

- Chickens are excellent at reducing pest populations. They eat insects, weeds, and small rodents, which can help reduce the need for chemical pesticides and promote a more natural ecosystem.

Access to fresh local eggs

-Homeowners who raise chickens can provide themselves and their families with a steady supply of fresh, nutritious eggs. This reduces reliance on mass-produced, store-bought eggs, which have a larger environmental footprint.

-Store-bought egg cartons have a negative environmental impact due to their non-biodegradable nature and limited recycling options. Switching to chicken eggs is a more sustainable choice, as they don't have packing materials pernicious to the environment.

Composting and soil fertility

- Chicken manure is rich in nitrogen and can be used to fertilize gardens and crops. When used properly, chicken waste can boost soil health, improve plant growth, and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers.
- Poultry manure contains all 13 of the essential plant nutrients. These include nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), sulfur (S), manganese (Mn), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn), chlorine (Cl), boron (B), iron (Fe), and molybdenum (Mo).

Concerns

- Noise: Nearly all chicken noise (except for a rooster crow) is quieter than a dog barking. A hen's cluck only comes in at 60 decibels, which is equivalent to human conversation.
- Disease: Chickens don't pose a greater health risk than dogs or other pets when properly cared for - both can carry diseases, but the risks are manageable with basic hygiene and responsible ownership.

Conclusions

- Raising chickens can profoundly impact the quality of life for individuals and communities alike.
- Access to fresh, local eggs from backyard chickens reduces reliance on mass-produced eggs, mitigates environmental impact, and promotes sustainability.
- The legalization of chicken ownership has positive economic and environmental benefits.

Nia McLaughlin

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Anti-Chicken Presentation

With egg prices climbing so high that some have recently soared above $10, she understands why many of us may desire to keep a backyard flock of chickens. They could shield us from inflation and egg shortages, shield us from pesky bugs, and shield us from the stressors of daily life. However, it is important that each one of us is not shielded from the hidden costs of raising fowl. So, what does keeping a backyard flock entail?

First, the coop. Small options can be around $100, while people may spend upwards of $2,000. Then, with the average family of four needing four to six chickens each at a cost of anywhere between $20 and $50, simply obtaining chickens could cost $80 to $300. This, stacked with a $150 four-year permit from Columbus Public Health, shows relatively steep initial costs, and this is ignoring other essential initial items such as feeders, water troughs, and other accessories. There are then monthly expenses such as feed, bedding, supplements, and a safety net for medical expenses. These costs quickly add up, and research has shown that you may need around twenty to thirty hens laying eggs in their prime to break even. That is simply unsustainable for the average Reynoldsburg resident.

However, even if money is not an issue, there are a plethora of other issues that come with raising backyard chickens. The most prevalent and concerning is, without a doubt, illnesses. According to a study published by Public Health Ontario, 79% of backyard poultry owners did not change into separate clothes before contact with chickens, while 95% do not scrub or disinfect their shoes before and/or after contact - both processes which are integral to preventing the spread of various pathogens. Alongside this, many flock owners displayed a discrepancy between the sanitary measures they claimed to practice and what they did in actuality. In order to prevent disease, measures such as avoiding interspecies mingling, using dedicated clothing while handling chickens, not allowing them to free roam, storing feed in waterproof containers, and discarding all soiled or cracked eggs are all recommended for backyard poultry owners. However, these regulations are much more lenient than those given to larger egg producers. If these simple precautions are (1) less than the standard for what we may consume from commercial shortages and (2) not followed by a majority of chicken owners, how many diseases could be spread?

The answer is quite simple: many chickens can carry pathogens such as bird flu, E. coli, Histoplasmosis, and Salmonella. If we take a moment to focus our attention on the last, we will find that Salmonella is a common and concerning issue. Referring back to the Public Health Ontario study, of 737 salmonella patients they interviewed, 59% reported contact with backyard chickens. And alarmingly, seemingly healthy, symptomless chickens can spread salmonella to anything they

touch. This poses an issue not just to those who would take care of the flock, but to children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems as well. Improper storage of feed can also increase the risk of salmonella, as it attracts vermin such as rodents, which also carry the bacteria. In May 2024, there were 470 cases of salmonella linked to backyard chickens, with 125 hospitalizations, and nineteen of those cases were within our state. That is already bad enough. Allowing chickens will only allow these infections to increase, alongside the illnesses that we are less aware of.

Histoplasmosis, for example, thrives in chicken manure and leads to lung infections, Presumed Ocular Histoplasmosis Syndrome, and pneumonia-like symptoms. According to the CDC, from 1938 to 2013, the highest concentration of cases was seen in the Midwest, including Ohio. This pattern is seen with many livestock-related diseases. The public health impact is simply not negligible.

And this impact is often strengthened when people view their chickens not as poultry, but as pets. Petting, playing with, and even hugging or kissing chickens are common when one views them through a more affectionate lens. Especially in the case of younger children. She has already laid out the fact that chickens can carry and spread disease without showing a single symptom, and the fact that it is advised to change shoes and clothes after dealing with chickens. If people were to frequently interact with their flocks affectionately, what they have in their backyard is not a cute pet akin to a cat or dog, but rather a serious health concern.

Diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, kidney issues, headaches, and even death are just a few symptoms associated with pathogens that chickens carry. Imagine a child in your backyard, laughing as they hug a chicken, thinking it’s just a cute pet. But with every affectionate touch, they’re unknowingly increasing their risk of catching a deadly pathogen. That joy one moment can quickly be transformed into bedridden suffering the next. These are not just harmless creatures; they’re silent carriers of disease. When we consider the risk of these diseases spreading to our most vulnerable—our children, the elderly, those with compromised immune systems, we must ask ourselves: Is the joy of keeping a backyard chicken worth the potentially deadly consequences for those who can least afford it?

Not only are there hidden costs, but there are also hidden issues. Things that, upon our first look, we may not even realize could be associated with keeping chickens. Alongside illnesses, research has shown that poultry manure produces nitrous oxide, a gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide, far more than other animals. Although one person keeping a flock of chickens may not produce a significant amount of nitrous oxide, a larger proportion of the population owning poultry, coupled with the fact that nitrous oxide has been increasing in our atmosphere by 30 percent in the last 40 years alone, spells out dire environmental

consequences.

Owning chickens is simply not worth it. There have been recommendations to inform the public on a system-wide level by educating flock owners on quarantine and hygiene measures, providing health-related information to potential poultry buyers before point of sale, and registering households with poultry to enable communication in the event of outbreaks. However, there would still be a financial burden on the city to create these educational programs and enforce the legislation involved. A burden which is simply unnecessary, as chickens are not needed for subsistence in suburban areas.

Behind the idealized dream of owning a small chicken coop in our backyard, lies the hidden truth of difficulty in making a profit, countless regulations to follow, and still-prevailing spread of harmful diseases. Allowing chickens is not worth it.

President Strickland
President Strickland thanked Mr. Alem and Ms. McLaughlin for their presentations on this issue.

Scott Weiss
9613 Taylor Road SW
Mr. Weiss stated that he would propose a local ordinance permitting the limited keeping of hens on residential properties with minimal regulatory burden to support food security, public health, property rights, and self-sufficiency in alignment with the values of individual liberty and the national agenda to Make America Healthy Again. He explained that with inflation impacting grocery prices, residents are seeking lawful means to support their families with local, affordable food sources. He stated that backyard chickens provide fresh, nutrient-dense eggs free from chemicals and mass-production practices. They also reduce food waste by consuming scraps and contribute to a sustainable lifestyle that aligns with conservative values of stewardship and responsibility. He stated that many other municipalities in Ohio, including Columbus, Worthington, and Hilliard, allow backyard hens under reasonable and limited regulation, and he believes that Reynoldsburg should align with these examples. He explained that President Trump's Make America Great Again and Make America Healthy Again agendas emphasize American self-sufficiency, local production, and liberty from unnecessary government interference. He respectfully requests that the Reynoldsburg City Council pass an ordinance allowing backyard chickens in residential areas under the following proposed conditions: up to 18 hens on lots under 1 acre or 32 hens on lots over 1 acre, no roosters to prevent noise-related issues, chickens must be in a secure coop and fenced run area at all times, and coops must be kept at least 5 feet from property lines and 20 feet from neighboring dwellings. He would also request that no permit be required to reduce

administrative burden. All coops must be maintained in a sanitary condition and the number of hens must not create a nuisance or pose a risk to public health. Chickens should also only be considered an accessory use in single-family residential zoning areas. Mr. Weiss believes that this proposal represents a fair, responsible, and minimalistic approach to local governance which will offer Reynoldsburg families the freedom to support themselves without unnecessary interference. He believes that the City should empower residents, support sustainable living, and take a step forward in making Reynoldsburg a model of practical and patriotic governance.

Stephanie Regan
906 Hillridge Road
Ms. Regan stated that she is backyard poultry certified through OSU and is currently studying wildlife conservation. She explained that she is a mother of two and has also lived in Reynoldsburg for ten years and her husband works for the water department here. She has attended Council so ask that they allow residents to have at least 10 hens and no roosters. She stated that Columbus, Bexley, Pataskala, and Gahanna all allow at least five to six hens with no roosters. She reiterated that owning chickens supports cultural and educational values along with supporting sustainable and local food production. They provide protein, eggs, stability. As long as people continue to care for chickens correctly, it can be very easy. She explained that in general, chickens are no more difficult, noisy, or dirty than other animals. She stated that bird flu is not a new issue and can be easily prevented as long as people wash their hands. She explained that water fowl are actually the largest spreaders of bird flu, not chickens. Ms. Regan explained that to many people, chickens are pets and can be very sweet.

Mark Fluharty
761 Robbins Loop
Mr. Fluharty stated that there had been discussions about backyard chickens for quite a while and on the Reynoldsburg Strong Facebook page there have been many posts about it. He thanked Council for the opportunity to have this discussion because there is so much to talk about. He explained that he is in favor of an ordinance allowing a small number of chickens for residents. He stated that chickens have a lot of value to those who may want to eat the eggs or the chicken. He explained that he moved here from Southern Ohio twenty-six years ago and grew up raising chickens and whose parents still raise chickens. He believes that there should be common-sense regulations allowing a few chickens and no roosters. He clarified that if people want to raise chickens because they are cost-efficient, chickens may not be right for you. Mr. Fluharty also stated that he has seen a discussion on Facebook regarding property value if the City decides to allow chickens. In communities like Bexley, Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights, Worthington, Gahannah, Columbus, and Pataskala all allow chickens and their

property values are definitely not going down. He also has not noticed any outbreaks of disease from chickens within those communities that allow them. He explained that chickens can also lay 250–300 eggs per year. He reiterated that residents in Reynoldsburg who want chickens are not trying to start an egg farm in their backyard, they would just like to participate in what other Central Ohio communities already do.

Diane Evans
688 Hunnicut Drive
Ms. Evans explained that she attended the meeting to encourage Council to strongly consider adopting an ordinance in favor of backyard chickens. She stated that as mentioned by Mr. Alem earlier, chickens have a lot of health benefits. Beyond their nutritional value, they provide educational opportunities for children, teach responsibility, provide STEM-based learning around biology and life cycles, and give connections to where our food comes from. Backyard chickens can also be a great fit for youth development programs like 4-H, which empowers children with hands-on learning with agriculture and leadership. They also offer internships and scholarships. She stated that investing in youth is investing in our future. She stated that in regard to the ordinance itself, she believes they should just look to communities surrounding us who already have successful chicken ownership ordinances. These ordinances include things like a permit that is renewable, fees to maintain the program, no fees for those on SNAP or WIC, number of chickens based on lot size, coop design and location, food storage methods, manure management plan, and a notarized statement of support from the owner of the property if the resident is not the owner. They would prohibit roosters and any other type of fowl. They would also need to address slaughtering, which should only be permitted within enclosed structures and not visible to the public. There should also be no sale of chicken products except with a permit. They would need to address proper disposal of deceased chickens as well. Ms. Evans thanked the Council for their time.

Kenneth Kirksey
561 Peak Court
Mr. Kirksey stated that he has lived in Reynoldsburg for 20 years and has raised his family here and plans to continue to live here. He explained that he is in opposition to allowing chickens in the community. He explained that Reynoldsburg did start as a small farming community and Taylor Road was just a dirt road. This community has evolved, and it is now a community of more houses and families and less space between houses. He stated that lot sizes in the City are now much smaller and not very conducive for backyard chickens. He believes that with how close together residents are, adding chickens to the area could become a health concern. He also has concerns about how the City will be able to police this because it could easily get out of hand.

Sandy Downey
1390 Creekside Place
Ms. Downey stated that she was here because she had concerns. She has lived in Reynoldsburg for around three and a half years, and before she moved here she lived in the country and owned chickens. She stated that everyone has their own ideas about who they're going to manage their chickens. Her concerns are about lot size, noise, chicken waste, smell, and flies. Vermin and predators are also a concern for backyard chickens like raccoons and coyotes. Slaughtering and butchering are also another concern for her with houses being so close together. She asked how or who would be policing this. She stated that she herself has thought about how nice it would be to own a few chickens but knows that this is something Council will have to decide.

Tanya Dexter
7255 Sorrelwood Court
Ms. Dexter stated that she was not going to repeat things people had already said, but she did want to address the disease issue. She stated that the spread of E. coli and salmonella can also be spread through cats and dogs and any other household pets. She stated that people also pet and hold their other household pets, including dogs who eat their own feces, and do not wash their hands and touch other people. Chickens are not the only animals that have the potential to be unclean. She stated that hens do make noise when they lay eggs, but they are not as pestering as roosters, who are not needed to lay eggs anyway. She also agrees that flock sizes should be limited to eight to ten hens and should be confined within a fence or coop. She stated that these regulations could be enforced by a new department that is created or through park rangers. Permits can offset the cost of these additional resources. She explained that she understands why some people are concerned about residents keeping chickens, but there are people who already do it within the City. She stated that even though these flocks are not currently regulated, there has not been an outbreak of disease, so these concerns about backyard chickens are already present. She explained that Council already knows she is in support of backyard chickens and thanked them for their time.

Lauren Nader
7627 Palmer Road
Ms. Nader stated that she spoke with city department heads in Bexley, Westerville, and Pataskala. She also looked up information about Columbus and other communities. First, she would like to mention that Columbus residents must use the Columbus Public Health Department for a permit and there is a fee involved. Other communities also choose to use the Columbus Public Health Department for their permitting as well. Westerville does not allow chickens on any properties unless they are zoned rural residential and must have at least 2 acres; based on

these strict requirements, there are no more than a few properties that have chickens. Bexley does not use Columbus for their permitting but they do have their own system; they also have an animal control officer, and she enforces all the rules and regulations. Bexley also has a five-pet rule total; so if someone has three dogs, they can have two chickens. Pataskala chooses to enforce their regulations through their zoning department. There are also cities around Columbus that do not allow chickens, like New Albany, Orange Township, and Pickerington. After speaking to these different department heads, Ms. Nader created a list of rules she believes are best for chicken regulation. Reynoldsburg should follow the Columbus Public Health Department guidelines with a few additional rules. There should be a reasonable number of chickens; other municipalities are between four and six. The coop must be located in the rear yard and there should also be a minimum of three to ten feet from the side and rear lot lines and must be completely enclosed and shielded from the street. The area must be kept clean, and no person shall sell the eggs produced by these chickens, so there will be no for-sale signs. There should also be no roosters. She believes that Reynoldsburg should do no less than what Columbus requires for its residents. Ms. Nader quoted an article written by a woman who owns chickens in Washington Court House stating, potentially you could spend anywhere from $1000-2000 on a chicken coop, adding the cost of the chickens and the feed, which has also been affected by inflation; financially, it may make more sense to continue to buy eggs from the grocery store. Backyard chickens will not actually save you money, but you will at least know where your food comes from and feel good about what you are eating. She stated that Reynoldsburg must be proactive in whatever decision they may make about residential chicken ownership.

Ian Klingler
6458 Penick Drive
Ms. Klingler stated that he grew up in Reynoldsburg but moved to Blacklick when he was nine. After moving away for college and beginning to work, he was able to buy his first home in Reynoldsburg. He is in favor of the City adopting an ordinance allowing residents to own backyard chickens. He grew up raising farm animals in Blacklick, like chickens, turkeys, pigs, hogs, and cows. He explained that it was a great experience as a child because he learned many valuable skills. He feels this is a pretty common-sense issue since most cities around us already allow chicken ownership. He stated that this isn't a chicken versus dog debate, but both make noise and both poop, but dogs don't make delicious egg sandwiches. He agrees that there should be a permitting process, no roosters, a secure enclosure, no free-range, the area kept clean, and no selling of eggs. He stated that lots less than 1 acre can have 4 hens and 6 hens if they are over 1 acre. He explained that he believes it is a basic right for us to be able to grow the food we eat on the soil we own.

Spencer Dunbar
352 Timbercreek Road
Mr. Dunbar stated that he is in support of residential chicken ownership. He stated that within a fenced-in area, they can offer chickens a free-range lifestyle where they can eat bugs. They can also provide educational opportunities for children and make great pets. He supports the idea of just having hens and believes this ownership has the capability of creating a feeling of community unity. He also explained that additional rights will also come with additional responsibilities which can promote independence.

Paige Sunnenberg
1047 Lancaster Avenue
Ms. Sunnenberg stated that she is in support of allowing residential chicken ownership. Columbus residents are already able to own chickens, and she believes that Reynoldsburg residents should have the same right. She explained that in this economy, they would prefer to be able to harvest their own eggs for a better value and fewer chemicals. She grew up on a farm with chickens but never dealt with any illnesses and responsible owners know what to do when a chicken becomes sick; these animals are poultry, not pets. Her property is over an acre and backs up to a creek, which causes there to be many bugs in the area, and they would rather naturally remove those pests rather than chemical uage. The ordinance the City chooses to create can lay out the rules and regulations of chicken ownership. She asked Council to please allow residents to own chickens, even if that comes with more regulations.

Presten Walters
2137 Claystone Place
Mr. Walters stated that when he first began raising chickens, there was a novelty to it. But it quickly turned into much more work, and they were loud and smelly. He stated that they are not pets, they are food. He is not necessarily for or against owning chickens but wanted to talk about his own personal experience. He stated that they destroyed the grass in the area they were kept in, and their waste had a very bad smell.

Doyline Williams
7266 Doverwood Court
Ms. Williams stated that she has lived here for seven years and loves it here. She stated that she would not repeat what others have already said because they have been very thorough. Ms. Williams stated that if she had a family, and it was becoming tough to feed them and that required her to garden or farm, she would do whatever she had to do to ensure her family was taken care of, and she would be proud of her own civil disobedience. She agrees that we will have to be proactive about this matter and take into consideration what neighboring cities are

doing. Whatever the City decides to do, please do not make it the responsibility of the non-chicken owners to reinforce the regulations. She hopes that whatever legislation may be passed can bring people together and not create issues between neighbors.

Email Comments

Paula Farris
I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed ordinance allowing residents of Reynoldsburg to keep chickens on their personal property. This initiative offers numerous benefits that align with our community's values of sustainability, self-reliance, and neighborly connection.

Economic and Environmental Benefits:
In light of rising egg prices, having backyard chickens provides a cost-effective and reliable source of fresh eggs. This practice not only supports personal food security, but also reduces reliance on commercial egg production, which can have significant environmental impacts due to transportation and large-scale farming practices. Beyond egg production, chickens contribute positively to the environment. They consume kitchen scraps, helping to reduce food waste, and their manure serves as a valuable fertilizer for gardens, promoting sustainable gardening practices. Source

Community and Educational Advantages:
Raising chickens fosters a sense of community and offers educational opportunities, especially for families with children. It provides hands-on experience in animal husbandry, teaching responsibility and an understanding of food sources. In Cleveland Heights, for example, residents reported that keeping chickens brought neighborhoods together, as neighbors bonded over a shared interest in poultry-keeping. Source

Financial Benefit to the City:
In addition to the personal benefits for residents, permitting backyard chickens presents an opportunity for Reynoldsburg to generate modest but meaningful revenue. Permit and inspection fees could help fund administrative costs, educational materials, and enforcement efforts related to the ordinance. This not only ensures the program is self-sustaining but also provides an additional revenue stream for the city, without burdening taxpayers.

Precedents in Ohio:
Several Ohio cities have successfully implemented ordinances permitting backyard chickens, providing valuable models for Reynoldsburg. Lakewood, for instance, introduced a program in 2011 that educated residents and allowed up to four hens

per household. This initiative led to increased local food production and strengthened community ties.

Addressing Potential Concerns:
While some may have concerns about noise, odors, or health risks associated with keeping chickens, these issues can be effectively mitigated with proper education and guidelines. For example, Cleveland Heights reported minimal complaints after implementing their backyard hen program, indicating that with appropriate regulations, urban chicken-keeping can be both safe and enjoyable. Source

In conclusion, allowing residents to keep chickens aligns with our community's commitment to sustainability, education, and self-reliance. I urge the council to consider the positive impacts observed in other Ohio cities and to approve the ordinance permitting backyard chickens in Reynoldsburg.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts as a Reynoldsburg resident who loves gardening and wants the opportunity to own chickens on her property.

Jana Bosch
I am excited about the prospect of backyard chickens coming to Reynoldsburg. This initiative offers numerous benefits that align with community values and would positively impact Reynoldsburg and the surrounding areas.

Firstly, backyard chickens are an environmentally friendly practice. They naturally reduce household food waste by consuming scraps, thereby lessening the burden on our landfills. Their manure is also a valuable source of nutrient-rich compost for gardens, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Secondly, chickens are effective natural pest control agents. They readily consume insects, including nuisance pests like ticks and mosquitoes, which can help reduce their populations in our neighborhoods without the use of harmful pesticides.

Furthermore, keeping chickens offers valuable educational opportunities, particularly for children. It provides hands-on learning about animal care, the life cycle, and the source of our food. This connection to nature can foster a greater understanding of environmental stewardship and responsibility.

Finally, allowing backyard chickens offers a small but meaningful way for residents to access ethically sourced eggs. By providing an alternative to the industrial egg industry, which often faces criticism for its inhumane treatment of hens, you can support more compassionate food choices. Not to mention, residents will have a way to escape the skyrocketing egg prices that some say will never go back down.

I know some have discussed the potential downsides of chickens, but many concerns do not reflect the reality of backyard chickens. For example, limiting the number of chickens based on land size (say, 6 per quarter acre) would virtually eliminate chicken waste concerns and ensure that the chickens have plenty of room. Likewise, prohibiting roosters virtually eliminates noise concerns, as hens are considerably quieter than dogs or children. Also, there is no need to employ chicken catchers, as chickens generally prefer to remain near their coops and rarely make concerted escape attempts from adequately sized pens or yards. And if you look into the data, you will see that backyard flocks are almost never active participants in flu outbreaks. It turns out that humane and natural living conditions are less conducive to disease than the industrial chicken battery cage arrangements.

On top of it all, chickens are beautiful and diverse creatures. I'd encourage you to take the time to Google "Polish chicken breeds" and "Australorp pictures," and maybe even "Buckeye chickens," a breed with the double honor of sharing our home state and being the first American chicken breed created by a woman. Watching chickens is incredibly calming, and caring for chickens encourages compassion. Much like the ubiquitous family dog, chickens can be a source of joy for many.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Guzal Nasirova
I would like to voice my wife and my displeasure at having chickens allowed to be owned by residents. I live at 9153 Firstgate Drive, which has a big backyard and a creek. A couple of years ago, my neighbors (next to us and across the creek) decided to build a coop and raise chickens and a rooster. The rooster was extremely annoying and would not let us have any rest or sleep. I would hate it if the city ordinances changed my ability to enjoy being in my back-yard.

I strongly urge the council to vote against allowing any domestic livestock as it will create a precedent, which will be difficult to curtail.

Pragya Kharel
I'm a resident of Reynoldsburg, and I am in full support of allowing people to have chickens. We should definitely have rules around how many, that they need to be cooped and fenced yards only. But besides that, I see no downsides to it. Writing to express support.

Tasha Fowler
I strongly oppose allowing chickens within city limits. The risk of disease outbreaks, like avian flu, is significant and outweighs any potential benefits. Given residents'

inconsistent adherence to existing ordinances, I doubt sufficient safety measures would be followed. Reynoldsburg should focus on initiatives that better distinguish it from other communities.

Chanel Norton-Lee
I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a concerned resident of Reynoldsburg to express my opposition to any proposed measures that would permit the keeping of chickens within our city limits.

While I understand the interest some community members may have in urban farming and sustainability, introducing chickens into residential neighborhoods raises several concerns, including:
• Public Health and Sanitation: Chickens can attract rodents and other pests, and their waste can contribute to unsanitary conditions if not properly managed.
• Noise and Odor: The presence of chickens - especially roosters - can create noise disturbances and unpleasant odors, which could impact the quality of life for nearby residents.
• Property Values and Zoning Concerns: The addition of livestock to urban areas may negatively affect property values and undermine the residential character of our neighborhoods.
• Enforcement and Oversight: Implementing and monitoring new ordinances would require resources and clear regulations to avoid abuse or neglect.

I respectfully urge you to maintain Reynoldsburg's current ordinances that prohibit chickens in residential areas. Our community has long prided itself on being a clean, family-friendly suburb, and I believe this decision is key to preserving that standard.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I would be happy to discuss this further if needed.

Council Comments

President Strickland
President Strickland thanked everyone for their comments and appreciated the discussion and many different points that were brought up.

Councilmember Salvati
Councilmember Salvati stated that this is the most impressive show of interest and people coming to speak their minds at a Council meeting in his 10 years of attending meetings. He stated that as far as backyard chickens go, he doesn't necessarily have strong feelings either way. He tried to approach this as practically as possible and did plenty of research. He stated that most of the pros and cons

have already been discussed today. The one thing that does concern him at this time, is that people would make the decision to get chickens lightly just to combat the inflation of egg prices at the store without putting a lot of thought into what owning chickens is actually like. He believes that they will be able to mitigate that with mindful legislation. Councilmember Salvati explained that he does have a list of things that would absolutely need to be in the legislation for it to receive his support. That list includes: no roosters, no slaughtering for meat, no public egg sales, a permit with a fee would have to be required, and limiting the flock size to six hens. He would also prefer that we partner with Columbus Public Health Department to at least do the permitting. Councilmember Salvati stated that they should also take lot size into consideration and possibly limit flock size based on the property and possibly tag the chickens, so the owner can be identified. He prefers that they also look into zoning restrictions but would need to have more in-depth research on zoning regarding the coop.

Councilmember Baker
Councilmember Baker thanked everyone for coming out to speak on this issue tonight. He stated that he also agrees with everything Councilmember Salvati said, especially tagging the chickens and a fee along with the permit, and additional fees for not complying with the regulations. He stated that there should also be no selling of eggs and no signs at all advertising chickens or eggs and absolutely no roosters. He believes flock size should be around 3-4, and they could possibly look into expanding that at a later time. There should also be standards for the chicken coop based on flock size and no free-range chickens.

Councilmember Pyakurel
Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he has no personal interest in owning chickens but is not necessarily for or against residential chicken ownership. He also thanked the City Attorney's Office interns for their presentations, stating that they were very informative. He explained that he does have a few concerns based on everything he has heard today. He is concerned about how the other community members will feel if the City were to pass legislation because bird flu is a real issue, even if it has been around for a long time. There are also concerns about how this will be managed and who will do the policing. He believes that the limit for hens should be 5 and he had not considered before that chickens could eat food scraps, so he does appreciate that.

Councilmember Towns
Councilmember Towns reiterated her thanks to everyone that came out tonight to take part in this discussion and stated that she had learned far more about chickens than she ever planned to. She explained that through her own research and everting that was presented to Council, she was going to put her own thoughts to the side to hear the community's thoughts and concerns about this issue. She

explained that if they were going to move forward with legislation, she would agree with everything Councilmember Salvati stated previously.

Councilmember Johnson
Councilmember Johnson thanked everyone for attending Council to be part of this discussion. She explained that she, too, is on the fence about whether this is the right fit for Reynoldsburg. She does agree with there being strict regulations and would need to learn more about how code enforcement would be able to handle this. She stated that there are still quite a few unanswered questions regarding the administrative side of urban chicken ownership, but they could discuss that at a later time.

Councilmember Hill
Councilmember Hill also thanked everyone for their presentation and research on this matter. She explained that she also does not feel strongly either way because she can see the advantages and disadvantages. She would like to ask neighboring cities how often they receive complaints that pertain to chickens about things like noise and odor and what that process is like for their administration. She stated that she did some math today and noted that eggs at Kroger are down to $4.29 and, for the average family of four in Ohio, you would need chickens to provide approximately 1800 edible eggs to break even on the cost of chicken ownership and everything it entails. She has concerns that once the novelty of owning chickens wears off, what will happen to the chickens then? She stated that she does not have a clear answer yet.

President Strickland
President Strickland stated that there were good arguments for both sides with so much research being presented. She stated that they discussed permitting by Columbus, but is unsure of how effective that may be since they are not in the City. She also has questions about how much it would cost to begin creating and administering this new proposal. She agrees there should be no slaughtering of chickens in the City and no roosters. She also questions how this may impact HOAs in the City. She understands that everyone has said they would be responsible, but we know that not everyone will be.

Mayor Begeny
Mayor Begeny explained that they put together a framework of what it would look like if they chose to allow residential chickens. They hired two park rangers about a year and a half ago, with the intent that if at some point in the future, the City decided to legalize chickens, these park rangers would assist in the administration of that program. Staffing has been authorized for this, but it has not been funded at this time. Code enforcement would be the other aspect of this with regard to inspection, monitoring, and complaints, so they would most likely add another code

enforcement officer. There would need to be very straightforward legislation regarding chicken ownership to ensure that there are no loopholes. He stated that there are already issues with chickens and they have received calls in the past about loose chickens in the City.

President Strickland
President Strickland asked Mayor Begeny how Reynoldsburg compares to some of the other cities that allow chickens in terms of things like lot size.

Mayor Begeny stated that, looking at a city like Gahanna, chickens are permitted there if you own a home that is on a lot greater than one acre. There are not a lot of homes there that meet that requirement. Westerville allows chickens in the agricultural or rural zoning districts with minimum lot sizes of three to five acres. Hilliard is probably the most comparable to Reynoldsburg, allowing 6 hens on properties that are at least half an acre and zoned rural residential, but we do not have a rural residential zone in Reynoldsburg. He stated that even though many of these cities do allow chickens, they are not as open and unrestricted as they may seem. He explained that it would be unfair legislation in Reynoldsburg to require at least 1 acre because there are so few homes that meet that requirement. Councilmember Salvati noted that another comparable city is Worthington.

President Strickland asked what a partnership with Columbus on this issue may look like. Mayor Begeny stated that he is not sure if Columbus currently has the resources to also assist us with this program and does not know the exact cost associated with that. Councilmember Salvati stated that he would not want Columbus to be the day-to-day manager for something like this.

President Strickland stated that it is an option to discuss this again at a later date and not make a decision at this time. Councilmember Salvati stated that we should have discussions with Columbus to see if they would even be able to assist us in this endeavor before we begin drafting legislation and what the cost associated with that may be. He would also prefer to speak with Worthington about how their partnership with Columbus on this issue has worked for them. Based on the information received from those conversations, they may have to change the way they approach this issue if they are not able to work with Columbus. Councilmember Baker added that they should discuss implementation with other municipalities to avoid any mistakes they may have made along the way.

President Strickland asked the Mayor and City Attorney to have those discussions with Columbus and what a partnership with them may be like. She also asked that they speak to other cities that allow chicken ownership and decide if their legislation may work for us; she requested this information for the first meeting in May.

APPEAL HEARING

Appeal Hearing of the Planning & Zoning Board March 20, 2025 Decision for Application #2024-0770 for 6008-6014 East Livingston Avenue

The Appeal Hearing was tabled as the applicant and/or his attorney were not in attendance.

Councilmember Salvati moved to table the Appeal Hearing until the April 28, 2025, Council meeting. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Treasury Board Meeting Minutes

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report

Clerk of Court Report for March 2025

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in March 2025 in the amount of $35,641.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for April 14, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Chair Salvati, and President Strickland.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with CORE5 Industrial Partners, LLC, or an Affiliate, Providing for a Project and Property Tax Exemption Pursuant to the City's Community Reinvestment Area Program, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Meyer explained that this Ordinance was for a project located on Taylor Road across from the L Brands facility consisting of approximately 52 acres. This project would consist of about 812,000 square feet of industrial buildings completed in phases. This project would bring in over 400 new jobs, resulting in $78,500,000 in new development. The abatement is 75% of the total tax over fifteen years. Currently, the property produces $2,500 in property taxes annually. This project will increase the amount of property tax revenue. It would also include a one-time donation of $50,000 for the Tomato Festival. There will be a 2% commitment for income tax with the project making up any amount below the minimum income tax revenue.

President Strickland asked if the Licking County schools were aware of this project and agreed to the arrangement. Director Meyer responded that the school district had been noticed and were fully aware of the project.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Creating a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) and Establishing Safety and Sanitation Plans

Attorney Shook explained that this evening's discussion was the first step in the DORA process following the submission of the DORA application. During the last meeting, Council made several suggestions that were integrated into the final application. Council suggested reducing some of the Dora area in the parks to ensure that would avoid sporting areas in JFK Park. The total acreage is 57.55 and covers the vast majority of the Olde Town Reynoldsburg district along East Main Street. The application submitted summarizes the DORA boundaries under the ORC Section 4301.82, which describes the population size and the nature and types of establishments permitted in the DORA. The application for the DORA is compatible with the City's land use and zoning codes. It also includes a list of all of the qualified permit holders with exhibits for a public sanitation and public safety plan. Regarding the comment by a resident earlier, the police department will provide law enforcement services with the duty supervisor ensuring that appropriate attention would be provided to the Dora during the hours of operation and during events that are larger than normal. The police will be responsible for maintaining the DORA boundaries and assign additional officers or specific patrol officers as needed. In regard to planned events, personnel will be specifically assigned to focus law enforcement to be sure to address concerns raised by people who may consume alcohol in excess. The department is already responsible for dealing with people in public spaces. Council's packet also includes a clever beer cup design that depicted where permit holders are located within the DORA as well as trash receptacles that would be located throughout the DORA. Council was not approving the DORA this evening, just setting a required

public hearing for May 12, 2025 at 6:30pm. This timeline provided to Council shows that Council would introduce the legislation at their April 28, 2025 meeting. Attorney Shook thanked Events and Communications Director Clemens for researching Councilmember Hill's request for reusable or compostable cups. Unfortunately, state law prohibits the use of reusable cups as patrons must discard their cups before they enter a new permit establishment. We did obtain cups from Bexley and Gahanna's DORA. Bexley has a compostable cup, while Gahanna's cup is recyclable. The cost of these cups was not known, but the compostable cups would be more expensive.

Councilmember Baker expressed his thanks to Attorney Shook for his diligence in following through with the establishment of this DORA. He explained that he had been supportive of a DORA for many years and was glad to see one finally being established in the City. We have had time to look at the workings and effectiveness of other DORA's, should allow Reynoldsburg to be better prepared in establishing our DORA.

Councilmember Hill questioned the factors involved in selecting the cups. Obviously, price will be important, but what other factors will be involved. She also questioned the process of picking up the waste. Even though the City provides recycling bins and trash bins for the Tomato Festival, at the end of the night, both receptacles were full of mixed items.

Attorney Shook indicated that he was not aware of the cost differential between the cups, but the compostable cups were a little more expensive. The City will need to consider more than just the cost of the cups, including the likelihood of people actually throwing the cup in the right place. During the Tomato Festival, the City had landfill containers and recyclable containers co-mingled at the end of the night. Obviously, a compostable cup would break down no matter where the cup was disposed. Council would not need to make a cup selection until just prior to the effective date of the DORA.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to schedule a public hearing for May 12, 2025, at 6:30pm. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for April 14, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Chair Johnson, and President Strickland.

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Chief Baker explained that with the arrival of new police cruisers, the department needed to dispose of four cruisers. These used cruisers will be sold on GovDeals or sold to other municipalities.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for April 14, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Chair Pyakurel, and President Strickland.

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditor's Certificate of the Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman explained that monies were available for the services by Toole & Associates; however, the charges from the contractor were more than the purchase orders issued. The funds were budgeted, but the purchase order was insufficient.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Law General Contracting Pertaining to the City's 2025 Street Improvement Project (Alley), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Directo Dorman indicated that with the continuation of the Waggoner Road project, the City's street improvement project would again be reduced this year. The City will be repaving several alleys in the Olde Town and French Run Road areas as well as adding a missing sidewalk at Rodebaugh and Lancaster Avenue and a crosswalk accessing Rodebaugh Park.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pavement Technology, Inc. Pertaining to the City's 2025 Street Maintenance Program, Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman explained that the City was continuing the pavement maintenance

program. Council was provided a map showing the roadways that this contractor would complete this year. The maintenance program helps facilitate extended service on these roads. Director Dorman indicated that the survey of the status of all City streets would be completed soon. This survey would evaluate the repair of City streets as well as help determine the street improvement projects for the future.

Councilmember Baker stated that he appreciated the upcoming street repair survey. However, he did express concern about the cut-through roadway (Rosedale Drive) off Brice Road to Rosehill Drive. He indicated that the roadway was very rough and needed work.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept the Central Ohio Primary Care (COPC) Project and Associated Public Infrastructure Improvements

Director Dorman explained that this legislation was to accept the infrastructure improvements made by Central Ohio Primary Care for the construction of their new building.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Summit Road Engineering Design Services (Limits of Prior Improvements South of Summit High School to East Main Street), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman explained that this legislation would authorize EMH&T to design the road, infrastructure, and sidewalk/pathway improvements along Summit Road.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 751 Home Sales of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Director Dorman stated that Chapter 751 Home Sales would amend updating language, especially language regarding garage sales. Changes were made to signage, permitting, permit fees, clean-up, and times for sales.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a

first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Street Department

Director Dorman stated that with the new building, staff have been working on clearing broken or no longer used equipment. Any equipment that was still working, but no longer used, would be auctioned.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an E-60 Bobcat, Trailer and Related Equipment for the Water/Wastewater Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman indicated that the Water/Sewer Department needed a smaller piece of equipment to excavate infrastructure repairs. The funds for this purchase were included in the 2025 Budget. Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an F-550 Truck and Related Equipment for the Water/Wastewater Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman explained that this vehicle was for the Water/Sewer Department. This truck would have a crane attached to enable employees to lift the pipe and install it into the ground, instead of handling the pipe manually. This truck was included in the 2025 Budget.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pyrotechnico Fireworks Inc. for the 2025 July 4th Fireworks Event and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman stated that this legislation was the annual contract to approve the fireworks for the July 4th celebration. The City has contracted with Pyrotecnico Fireworks for the past number of years and has been very satisfied with their work. This contract amount was a few hundred dollars more than previous years to cover the costs of tariffs.

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Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for April 14, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Salvati, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Pyakurel, Chair Baker, and President Strickland.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Steelworkers Union for the Period Beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny explained that the City was able to come to an agreement with the Steelworkers' Union. The negotiations were thorough with both sides making compromises. The contract was being requested as a two-read emergency as the contract and past payroll needed to be paid back to January 1st.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160 Employee Compensation, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classification and Pay Grade, Sections (e) Parks & Recreation, (f) Police, and (g)(2) Building Division, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny indicated that this legislation was submitted in order to make changes needed due to the Steelworkers Union contract. There were also changes due to the City taking on the streetscape employees. This legislation was being requested as a two-read emergency to correspond with the Steelworkers Union contract.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 68-2024 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Real Property Located at 7148 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

Attorney Shook indicated that this legislation was back before Council as the parcel number was incorrect on the initial legislation. Once this legislation was amended, the City would be able to close on the property.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Reynoldsburg City School District Regarding the School Resource Officer Agreement

Mayor Begeny stated that the City had negotiated a new contract with the school district to maintain resource officers in the schools. In previous contracts, the school district and City shared the cost of those resource officers. However, with this new contract, the City would be handling the full cost of those services. The City also negotiated a few other changes to the agreement.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Salvati
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Street Department

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an E-60 Bobcat, Trailer and Related Equipment for the Water/Wastewater Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an F-550 Truck and Related Equipment for the Water/Wastewater Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

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A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pyrotechnico Fireworks Inc. for the 2025 July 4th Fireworks Event and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Reynoldsburg City School District Regarding the School Resource Officer Agreement

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Pyakurel
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditor's Certificate of the Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 68-2024 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Real Property Located at 7148 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with CORE5 Industrial Partners, LLC, or an Affiliate, Providing for a Project and Property Tax Exemption Pursuant to the City's Community Reinvestment Area Program, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Law

General Contracting Pertaining to the City's 2025 Street Improvement Project (Alley), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Pavement Technology, Inc. Pertaining to the City's 2025 Street Maintenance Program, Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept the Central Ohio Primary Care (COPC) Project and Associated Public Infrastructure Improvements

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Summit Road Engineering Design Services (Limits of Prior Improvements South of Summit High School to East Main Street), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 751 Home Sales of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

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An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160 Employee Compensation, Section 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classification and Pay Grade, Sections (e) Parks & Recreation, (f) Police, and (g)(2) Building Division, and Declaring an Emergency

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Hill announced that on April 26th was not only the City's clean-up day from 9am until noon, but also at the Y was Healthy Kids Day. It will be a free event with snacks with vendors, crafts, and food trucks.

Councilmember Baker gave a shout-out to the Reynoldsburg Bowling Team for their placement at state. This year's prom theme will be Night in Rome. He also thanked the teachers and encouraged them to enjoy their spring break. He also thanked the RPD, doctors, nurses, and retail workers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 17, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
April 28, 2025 Council
May 1, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
May 12, 2025 Council
May 15, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
May 26, 2025 Memorial Day City Offices Closed
May 27, 2025 Council Tuesday Meeting Date

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Council President Strickland adjourned the meeting.

_____
Shanette Strickland, Council President

_____
Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council